metres per day of natural gas for its proposed spong-iron project ;

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat have been informed that taking into consideration the present and projected production of natural gas from Bombay High and South Bassein by oil & Natural Gas Commission, and the supplies being made and the supplies already committed on a regular basis to consumers in priority sectors for their future requirements, supply of gas on a regular basis to their proposed spong-iron plant does not appear to be feasible at present.

Bulk drug capacity of Erythromycin etc.

132. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the bulk drug capacity of Erythromycin Thiocyanate (TIOC), Erythromycin Stearate and Erythromycin Estolate in the country from basic stage and how much is produced since August 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : This Ministry monitors the production of Erythromycin and its salts only in the organised Sector. Capacity of Erythromycin and its salts licensed in the organised sector in the country is of the order of 94 tonnes per annum. Production details of Erythromycin and its salts are as under :

Month/year	Production (Tonnes)		
	Estolate	Stearate	Total
August 1984 to August 1985	21·69	1·65	23·34

Manufacturing process of digital switching equipment

133. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 12th July, 1985 to the effect that to reduce the cost to half and the gestation period from 5 to 3 years, the Indian Telephone Industries Chairman has proposed the ITI should hand over the manufacturing of components and sub-systems to professionally competent ancillaries and itself do the assembly work of manufacturing process of the digital switching equipment ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been mooted to the Board of Directors of Indian Telephone Industries for setting up manufacturing capacity of 5 lakh lines of digital electronic switching equipment each at their Bangalore and Palghat Units on Assembly line principle and is under their consideration.

Participation of Private Sector for the Modernisation of Country's Telecommunications System

134. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to involve the private sector in the

modernisation and expansion of the country's telecommunication system ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to modernise and expand the telecommunications services in the country by using all the available resources and participation of both the private and the public sector. While the public sector will continue to play a major role in the production of telecommunication equipment for modernisation and expansion ; keeping in view the large variety and quantities of equipment that will be required, it has been decided to liaberalise the policy with regard to manufacture and permit production of various types of terminal equipment, etc. used at the subscribers' premises in the private sector.

Central aid to Bhopal gas victims

135. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :
DR. H P. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how much Central aid has so far been given for the relief of the victims of Bhopal gas leakage of December, 1984 ;

(b) what are the details of the schemes wholly or Partially financed therewith ; and

(c) whether any instances of diversion of central funds to schemes other than relief schemes has come to Government's notice and if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has so far given Rs. 40 crores to the State Government comprising Rs. 20 crores as medium term loan and Rs. 20 crores as ways and means advance for the relief operations. State Government is spending the money for providing relief and rehabilitation for the victims. These include providing ex-gratia relief and distribution of foodgrains, medical facilities, vocational training is well as suitable means of employment or self employment.

(c) Does not arise.

Maternity Leave to Women Employee of Telephone Department

136. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has directed the General Managers of Telephones all over the country that they should not entertain maternity leave applications from any Woman employee who has not changed her name after marriage ;

(b) if so, what is the justification for such an order ;

(c) whether the said order is based upon any Act or Government order ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.